

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of depicting a plurality of items and how said plurality of items satisfy
 2 multiple criteria, the method comprising the steps of:
 3 displaying in a particular order a list of visual indicators, wherein the particular order
 4 indicates how a plurality of items satisfy a first criteria;
 5 detecting input indicating the selection of a second criteria; and
 6 while retaining said particular order, displaying a visual indication of how said
 7 plurality of items satisfy a second criteria.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps further include
 2 a browser receiving a self-contained page; and
 3 wherein the steps are performed by said browser in response to executing said self-
 4 contained page, without said browser having to interact over a network with a
 5 server to determine how said plurality of items satisfy said second condition.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of the browser receiving the self-contained
 2 page includes the browser receiving the self-contained page over the network from
 3 the server.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of the browser receiving the self-contained
 2 page includes said browser causing said self-contained page to be read from
 3 removable computer-media.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying a visual indication includes
 2 displaying one or more other visual indicators visually associated with a subset of
 3 items that satisfy said second criteria.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displaying a visual indication includes
2 altering the visual appearance of one or more visual indicators from said list of visual
3 indicators.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein
2 said first criteria is based on an alphabetic order of names associated with said
3 plurality of items; and
4 the particular order of the list of visual indicators indicates the alphabetic order of the
5 name of the items.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the step of detecting input indicating the selection of a second criteria includes
3 detecting input selecting a particular category of a plurality of categories; and
4 the step of displaying a visual indication of how said plurality of items satisfy a
5 second criteria includes displaying a visual indication of which items of said
6 plurality of items belong to said particular category.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of detecting input selecting a particular
2 category includes detecting that a user has selected said particular category as a
3 selection in a list box listing said plurality of categories as selections.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps further include:
2 detecting input indicating the selection of a third criteria; and
3 while retaining said particular order, displaying a visual indication of how said
4 plurality of items satisfy said third criteria, wherein said third criteria is
5 different from said second criteria.

- 1 11. A method of generating a page this causes a browser to depict a plurality of items and
2 how said plurality of items satisfy multiple criteria, the method comprising the steps
3 of:
4 generating first page elements that cause said browser to display in a particular order
5 a list of visual indicators, wherein the particular order indicates how said
6 plurality of items satisfy a first criteria;
7 generating one or more second page elements that enable the browser to receive user
8 input indicating a selection of one or more criteria of a plurality of criteria;
9 and
10 generating third page elements that cause the browser to display, for each particular
11 criterion of a plurality of criteria, a visual indication of how said plurality of
12 items satisfy said particular criterion, without changing said particular order,
13 in response to receiving user input indicating a selection of said particular
14 criterion.
- 1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein:
2 the steps further include issuing a query to a database system that stores information
3 about said plurality of items, wherein said query requests data that may be
4 used to determine which set of items of said plurality of items satisfy a first
5 criterion of said plurality of criteria;
6 receiving results of the query from the database system; and
7 wherein the step of generating third page elements is based on an examination of the
8 results.
- 1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the steps further include

performing an examination of contents of said plurality of items to determine which of said plurality of elements satisfy a particular criteria of said plurality of criteria;
wherein the step of generating third page elements is based on said examination of the contents.

14. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for depicting a plurality of items and how said plurality of items satisfy multiple criteria, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
displaying in a particular order a list of visual indicators, wherein the particular order indicates how a plurality of items satisfy a first criteria;
detecting input indicating the selection of a second criteria; and
while retaining said particular order, displaying a visual indication of how said plurality of items satisfy a second criteria.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the steps further include
a browser receiving a self-contained page; and
wherein the steps are performed by said browser in response to executing said self-contained page, without said browser having to interact over a network with a server to determine how said plurality of items satisfy said second condition.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the step of the browser receiving the self-contained page includes the browser receiving the self-contained page over the network from the server.

- 1 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the step of the browser
2 receiving the self-contained page includes said browser causing said self-contained
3 page to be read from removable computer-media.
- 1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the step of displaying a visual
2 indication includes displaying one or more other visual indicators visually associated
3 with a subset of items that satisfy said second criteria.
- 1 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the step of displaying a visual
2 indication includes altering the visual appearance of one or more visual indicators
3 from said list of visual indicators.
- 1 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein
2 said first criteria is based on an alphabetic order of names associated with said
3 plurality of items; and
4 the particular order of the list of visual indicators indicates the alphabetic order of the
5 name of the items.
- 1 21. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein:
2 the step of detecting input indicating the selection of a second criteria includes
3 detecting input selecting a particular category of a plurality of categories; and
4 the step of displaying a visual indication of how said plurality of items satisfy a
5 second criteria includes displaying a visual indication of which items of said
6 plurality of items belong to said particular category.
- 1 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 21, wherein said step of detecting input
2 selecting a particular category includes detecting that a user has selected said

3 particular category as a selection in a list box listing said plurality of categories as
4 selections.

1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the steps further include:
2 detecting input indicating the selection of a third criteria; and
3 while retaining said particular order, displaying a visual indication of how said
4 plurality of items satisfy said third criteria, wherein said third criteria is
5 different from said second criteria.

1 24. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 generating a page this causes a browser to depict a plurality of items and how said
3 plurality of items satisfy multiple criteria, wherein execution of the one or more
4 sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more
5 processors to perform the steps of:
6 generating first page elements that cause said browser to display in a particular order
7 a list of visual indicators, wherein the particular order indicates how said
8 plurality of items satisfy a first criteria;
9 generating one or more second page elements that enable the browser to receive user
10 input indicating a selection of one or more criteria of a plurality of criteria;
11 and
12 generating third page elements that cause the browser to display, for each particular
13 criterion of a plurality of criteria, a visual indication of how said plurality of
14 items satisfy said particular criterion, without changing said particular order,
15 in response to receiving user input indicating a selection of said particular
16 criterion.

1 25. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24, wherein:

2 the steps further include issuing a query to a database system that stores information
3 about said plurality of items, wherein said query requests data that may be
4 used to determine which set of items of said plurality of items satisfy a first
5 criterion of said plurality of criteria;
6 receiving results of the query from the database system; and
7 wherein the step of generating third page elements is based on an examination of the
8 results.

- 1 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 24, wherein the steps further include
2 performing an examination of contents of said plurality of items to determine which of
3 said plurality of elements satisfy a particular criteria of said plurality of
4 criteria;
5 wherein the step of generating third page elements is based on said examination of
6 the contents.